



The OPLIN CIRCUIT

News for Ohio Public Library Staff & Management

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OPLIN Turns 10

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OPLIN's Genesis

"In addition, our new budget includes funding for an initiative that will link all Ohio public libraries with one another - with the state's telecommunications network, including our university libraries - and, eventually, with SchoolNet. It's called the Ohio Public Library Information Network, or 'OPLIN.'

When completed, OPLIN will provide all Ohio citizens - young and old, urban and rural - with an access ramp onto the information superhighway, through their local libraries. This action solidifies Ohio's place as a telecommunications pioneer among the 50 states."

- Governor George Voinovich,
1995 State of the State Address

Last month, OPLIN quietly passed a major milestone - the tenth anniversary of its official dedication.

The Ohio Public Library Information Network was conceived in 1994 through a group effort of Ohio's public libraries under the leadership of the Ohio Library Council. The idea was endorsed by Governor George Voinovich in his 1995 State of the State Address, and the organization was defined in the language of the state's biennial budget in June 1995. OPLIN was officially dedicated by Gov. Voinovich on June 12, 1996.



Governor George Voinovich approves of the first OPLIN website on June 12, 1996.

OPLIN's mission, then as now, is to offer Ohio residents fast, free access to the Internet and to subscription databases through Ohio's local public libraries. The overriding rationale for OPLIN is to ensure that all citizens have equal access to information, regardless of location or format. OPLIN believes that equity of access to information for all must include access to the diverse resources of Ohio's public libraries; access to federal, state, and regional information resources; and access to electronic information resources.

Since 1996, OPLIN has brought universal Web access to Ohio at over 700 sites in all 88 counties. In the 2001 Ecom-Ohio report released by the Governor's Office, OPLIN was credited with providing 4,478 public access workstations at local

public libraries, almost twice as many as available from all other agencies combined. Today there are approximately 10,000 public computers in Ohio public libraries.

OPLIN is re-created every two years in the biennial budget language. Specifically, OPLIN's governance and budget are defined in separate lines within the State

Library's budget. (In addition, OPLIN receives significant administrative support from the State Library.) This budget language also specifies that the leaders of Ohio's government receive a biannual report on the activities of OPLIN, as well as an assessment of Internet trends in public libraries across the nation and around the world. The current reports are always available at www.oplin.org/page.php?Id=62-4-229.

As we begin our second decade, OPLIN is closely watching the evolving



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information landscape. Significant changes are coming, and coming soon.

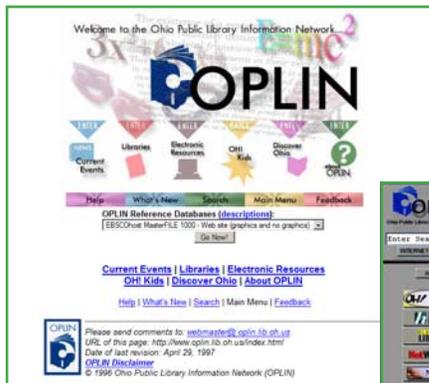
Network infrastructure and pricing are poised to change within the next few months. Security measures are becoming increasingly important. Methods for finding and retrieving our electronic content will be changing. And our website will slowly be changing to make

it easier for our customers (you and your patrons) to find the information they need, and to make it possible for us to deliver information to mobile devices.

We will strive to communicate with you whenever we find information that might affect your library, using as many delivery mechanisms as possible. We recently began publishing a weekly RSS feed of news items from the wider information world

(www.oplin.org/4cast) and intend to start podcasting and possibly even vodcasting to libraries. We need to be comfortable with the many ways of moving information across the Web, so we will be in a position to offer good, “hands-on” advice to libraries that also want to explore these new technologies.

OPLIN is acutely aware of the need for public libraries to stay relevant in our brave, new information world. Our tenth birthday wish is to do whatever we can to help.



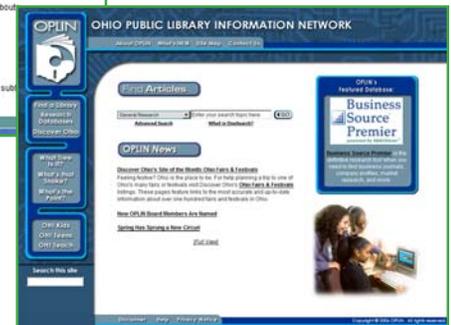
1996 - 1998



1998 - 2000



2000 - 2004



2004 - present

Through the years: The OPLIN website has had four different designs since its debut in 1996.

Website Tics & Tweaks

There have been several notable changes made to the OPLIN website in recent weeks. Here's the rundown:

1. There's a new “**Search this site**” box directly beneath the right-side menu on every page of the site. This search function employs Google search technology, but presents the results within the OPLIN website framework.
2. To improve usability, **visited links are now a different color** than unvisited links.
3. The OneSearch box on the front page of the site is now labeled “**Find Articles.**” Stay tuned for more possible news regarding the design and branding of OneSearch in the near future.

4. The “**Featured Database**” box on the front page now changes with each visit to the site.

Early discussions have begun about the next generation of the OPLIN website. Got any ideas? Let us know by writing to editor@oplin.org.

Introducing the 4cast

In April, we launched a new online publication called *The OPLIN 4cast*, a weekly compilation of recent headlines, topics, and trends that could impact public libraries. Readers can subscribe to it via RSS feed, or sign up for the OPLIN 4cast electronic mailing list. For more information, visit the *4cast* website (www.oplin.org/4cast).

Find a Library (Here's a Map)

Recent improvements made to OPLIN's Find a Library tool (www.oplin.org/fal) now allow users to not only find their local Ohio public library by county, but to also produce a Google map of the library's exact location by clicking “Show Map” beneath its listed address.

This new feature was made possible by using the Google Maps application programming interface (API), which allows anyone to embed Google maps on unrelated web pages with JavaScript. You can find out more information at www.google.com/apis/maps/.



Support Center Smorgasboard

Bouncy Routers

The OPLIN Support Center has noticed that a lot of OPLIN routers out in the libraries are being continually rebooted as of late. Whenever this happens, OSC personnel begin to document the event by starting a running history and contacting the library. This history allows us to troubleshoot potential router hardware issues in the future, and when we consistently see reboots, we begin the process of replacing equipment.

If your library anticipates that its Internet connection will be down for any reason, including local troubleshooting situations, construction, or cabinet reorganization, please contact the OPLIN Support Center at **1-888-966-7546** or support@oplin.org and let us know.

Setting DNS Contacts

If your library is registering a new domain name, please remember to make YOUR LIBRARY the technical and administrator contacts - NOT your tech staff, or worse yet, an outside tech support company.

Here's why - when it comes time to make DNS changes involving your domains, nobody but the listed owner is technically allowed to make those changes. If the person or company named as the official contact is not available, there will probably be an issue.

Sorry to Interrupt...

Did you know that your Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) is a battery and sometimes needs to be replaced? Some of

the router reboots mentioned above are the result of a UPS gone bad. Please test your units regularly and replace them as needed.

Plug It In, Plug It In

While in the process of testing all of the OPLIN diagnostic lines out there, we discovered that nearly 1/3 were not in working order for various reasons.

Whenever your library's circuit goes down, the OSC uses the diagnostic line to dial in to your OPLIN router and troubleshoot, so it's important that this line remains plugged in at all times.

What's the Plan?

Whenever your library is thinking about refining your local network, please remember that OPLIN is always very happy to provide advice and ideas.

Currently, there seem to be a lot of interesting network options on the market, but some are good and some are not-so-good. In the near future, there will be even more options.

The OPLIN Support Center strives to keep on top of everything, and may have information that can help you. Contact Don Nuss (nussdo@oplin.org) for more information.

New Hours

The OPLIN Support Center hours have expanded, and we're now on call from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, at **1-888-966-7546**.

Out & About on the Circuit

OCCN TechMix

July 13

Columbus Marriott North

www.ohioccn.org/techmix/

OPLIN Board Meeting

August 11, 10am-1pm

State Library of Ohio

OPLIN Stakeholders Meeting

September 15, 9-10am

OLC Trade Show, Columbus

Library Leadership Ohio Institute

August 6 - 11

Inn at Honey Run, Millersburg

webMAIL Call

OPLIN webMAIL is continuously being upgraded. Some of the latest features include:

1. **Bigger attachments.** Users can now attach files up to 6mb.
2. **Longer timeout.** It now takes 60 minutes of inactivity before an account times out.
3. **Add to Addressbook.** Use this link to instantly store a sender's e-mail address.
4. **More delete options.** At the bottom of each message, users can now choose to "Delete & Prev" (delete the current message and go back to the previous one) or "Delete & Next" (delete and go to the next message).
5. **Archive button.** Users can now archive messages, although this feature is still a little buggy. Although there's no limit on the number of messages to be archived, no individual e-mail can be more than 500k in size. We're working on it!



Optional Databases Are Now Available

This spring, OPLIN and OHIONET again offered preview access to dozens of subscription resources. OPLIN negotiated group deals for 13 database titles. Perhaps that was unlucky: three of those group deals collapsed because the number of participating libraries did not meet the expectations of the database vendors. Libraries wishing to subscribe to *Reference USA*, *Biography Reference Bank*, or *LegalForms* will have to work directly with the vendors for those subscriptions.

Ten of the group subscriptions did move forward, and there are 188 libraries that

have selected at least one optional database to make available to their patrons.

Later this summer, the State Library will send an invoice to participating libraries for their “share” of the group contract, but **the optional databases you selected are available now**. If access is not working, please contact the OPLIN Support Center to report the problem.

The optional databases are active for your library from the OPLIN Research Databases page (www.oplin.org/databases). If you maintain your own webpage of database links, you can use the links listed in the table below.

OPLIN Board News

At its meeting on May 23rd, the State Library of Ohio Board of Trustees approved the following appointments to the OPLIN Board of Trustees:

- **Mary Pat Essman**, Director, Lane Public Library (Hamilton)
- **Jim Kenzig**, Network Manager, Cuyahoga County Public Library
- **Bob Richmond**, Trustee, Canal Fulton Public Library (reappointment)
- **Clyde Scoles**, Director, Public Library of Toledo & Lucas County

The new Board members begin their three-year terms on July 1st, 2006, taking over for departing Board members Kim Fender, Tim Kambitsch, and the seat vacated by Stephen Hedges last year, when he applied to become the OPLIN Executive Director.

DATABASE

LINK/URL

ALLDATA.	http://library.alldatapro.com (no remote access)
Associations Unlimited.	http://www.oplin.org/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-25787
Auto Repair Reference Center.	http://www.oplin.org/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-22385
Book Index with Reviews.	http://www.oplin.org/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-22536
CultureGrams.	http://www.oplin.org/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-23903
eLibrary.	http://www.oplin.org/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-60
HeritageQuest.	http://www.oplin.org/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-22537
Literary Reference Center.	http://www.oplin.org/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-23905
SIRS Discoverer.	http://www.oplin.org/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-43
SIRS Knowledge Source.	http://www.oplin.org/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-46

Note: If your library uses its own, locally hosted remote access manager instead of OPLIN's centralized, statewide system, contact Don Yarman, yarmando@oplin.org, for alternative links to database sites.



OPLIN Database News

With the new fiscal year comes a few changes to the OPLIN database pages.

As previously announced, statewide access to *SIRS Discoverer* has been discontinued. However, those libraries that selected *Discoverer* as an optional database on the OPLIN Group Contracts Form will continue to have access. The optional databases should be working for your library by July 1st, when the contracts begin. Participating libraries will be invoiced later in the summer.

If your library has not elected to continue subscribing to *Discoverer*, you might want to link to *Kids Search* (www.oplin.org/kids) or *Student Research Center* (www.oplin.org/student) instead.

Questions? Contact Don Yarman at OPLIN (yarmando@oplin.org).

AccessScience

AccessScience recently added Video News to their Headline News area. These videos (with text components) cover the medical, environmental, and technological issues that affect daily life. Look for the camera icon on the homepage.

AccessScience is also promoting its new bookmarklets feature, which allows users to quickly get in-depth information from *AccessScience* without leaving the site they're using.

The bookmarklets can be installed in the personal toolbar of most commonly used browsers. When you find a word or phrase on a website and would like more information, simply highlight it by running your mouse across it, then click on the bookmarklet in the toolbar. This will automatically launch a search in *AccessScience* and present the results in a separate window. You can then work within *AccessScience* to find the information you need and simply close the window to return to the original site. See www.accessscience.com/bookmarklets.html for complete details and instructions.

Consumer Health Complete

EBSCO's new health database, *Consumer Health Complete*, is an amazing resource designed specifically to help individuals find the medical and health information they need. It's attractive and easy to use, filled with quality patient education information, drug and medical references, and the many perspectives of complementary and holistic approaches to wellness.

Consumer Health Complete is now available statewide for all public libraries. You can link to it at www.oplin.org/health. The separate links to *Health Source - Consumer Edition*, *Health Source - Nursing/Academic Edition*, *AltHealthwatch*, *Clinical Pharmacology*, and *MEDLINE* have been removed from our database listings, but these resources are still accessible directly from the generic EBSCO search interface.

Encyclopædia Britannica

Confused about how to properly cite an encyclopedia article? *Britannica* provides **automatic citations for every encyclopedia article**, conveniently placed at the bottom of each article, in both APA and MLA formats.

As a reminder - students, teachers, and parents can use *Britannica Online School Edition* to answer everyday questions at home all summer long. All of the *Britannica* materials that are available at school are also available at home or at the library, including encyclopedia and journal articles, videos, recommended websites, and much more.

NewsBank

Two new Special Reports are now available from NewsBank.

National Service Programs provides information on many volunteer programs available to everyone. The site also supports the 2006-2007 High School Debate Topic. National Service Programs covers: Americorps, Peace Corps, Citizen and Senior Corps, Habitat for Humanity, Military Service, and other service and volunteer programs.

Mental Health provides coverage that raises awareness of the issues and research being done in this field. Mental Health covers: studies and research, current trends and care programs, disorders, global issues, and government involvement.

Both special sites include current and background articles, related images, links to related websites, maps, and suggested search terms to use to find out even more about these topics.